

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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For more information, contact: Doug Nick, Interim Press Secretary (602) 364-1945

### **HORNE: STUDENT PROTESTS NOT O.K. DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, April 6, 2006

PHOENIX (April 6, 2006) – State schools superintendent Tom Horne today reiterated his position that Arizona’s public school students have the constitutionally protected right to protest, but must refrain from doing so while school is in session. Horne issued his remarks in advance of a planned protest on immigration policy slated for Monday, April 10.

“Protesting is a precious constitutional right, and participating in protests has great educational benefits for young people. However, this should be done after school hours. In recent weeks, we have seen a number of students cut class to join mass protests. They have the right to express their opinions. They also have a responsibility to take advantage of their opportunity for a classroom education,” Horne said.

“The first qualities employers look for in graduates is conscientiousness and punctuality. That is why I have opposed “Take Your Child to Work Day” during the school year - saying it should be done in the summer. Similarly, protests should be after school,” he added.

Horne continued, “Since I took office, we have placed a renewed emphasis on academics and rigor. To succeed in today’s economy muscle power is no longer sufficient. Academic brain power is now needed to obtain a decent job. Students must take their academic work seriously during the school day, and should participate in political life after school.”

“I support the position of those schools that have committed to ensuring that discipline will be applied to students who play hooky. Students must learn the lesson that actions have consequences,” Horne concluded.

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**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

Superintendent Horne is available for interviews in office beginning at 2:30 PM today. Please contact Doug Nick at 602-364-1945 to schedule. Phone interviews are available throughout the day.